

## **An Taisce Report – IBAL Anti-Litter League, Round 2, 2018**

**Portlaoise: Overall 2018 result: 21<sup>st</sup> out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.**

**Portlaoise has consolidated its standing as a clean town after some years of struggle. Well over half of the sites surveyed got the top litter grade. Some of the very good top ranking sites surveyed in Portlaoise included the Main Street, the R445 Approach Road and Portlaoise Train Station (Exterior) – they didn't just score well with regard to litter but also the presentation and maintenance was very good. There were no seriously littered sites in the town.**

**R445 Approach Road: Grade A.** This route presented very well with grass on the wide paving and plenty of tree planting. Road surface, signage and markings were in excellent condition. It was pristine throughout.

**Recycle Bank at Council Offices: Grade A.** The overall impression created at this bottle bank was a positive one. The units themselves were fresh in appearance.

**Shopping Centre with Lidl and other stores: Grade B.** There was a definite litter presence at this site – mostly loose, food related items and cigarette butts. Much of the litter was at the base of the green fencing. There didn't appear to be any visible litter bins in the area surveyed.

**R922 Approach Road: Grade A.** This was a very good road in terms of presentation and maintenance. Road surface, signage and markings were in good order and the pavement was in good condition. There was no visible litter throughout.

**Main Street: Grade A.** The Main Street was a good one with regards to litter, just occasional cigarette butts, chewing gum and sweet papers. Paving, bollards, street signage and bins were in very good condition.

**Abandoned building - Ex prison Officers Club: Grade B.** The windows of the first floor were boarded up and the property has a 'For Sale' sign on the railings. The main items of litter included cigarette related litter, plastic bags, fast-food items and sweet papers. Care needs to be taken to ensure that this site doesn't deteriorate further with regards to litter.

**Portlaoise Train Station – Exterior Entrance: Grade A.** This lovely 'olde' style station presented well, with parking to the front in good order. There was plenty of signage relating to parking / CCTV etc. All was in good order with regard to litter.

**Portlaoise Train Station – Interior: Grade B.** A moderately littered site with main litter items consisting of papers, chewing gum, fast-food items, etc. The base of a couple of the pillars on the station platform presented poorly and were in need of painting.

**Pepper's Lane: Grade A.** This narrow pedestrianised laneway has had a clean up but graffiti was still very much a feature at one end, particularly on the wall with the green door / grill. There was a virtual absence of litter to be seen.

**M7 Connecting Road to Naas: Grade A.** A very well presented and maintained route with little visible litter.